

THINGOE RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1921,

BY

Charles Scott Kilner, M.B.E., J.P.,

M.B., C.M., EDIN., D.P.H., CAMB.,

Late President East Anglian Branch of the British
Medical Association;

Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of
Health.

THINGOE RURAL DISTRICT.

To the Thingoe Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my forty-fourth Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Thingoe Rural District for the year 1921.

It will be observed that this report is much curtailed and condensed as compared with former years, in compliance with the instructions issued by the Minister of Health, revising the particulars to be included in the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health. I have there-fore endeavoured as far as possible to follow the lines indicated in the Circular.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	83,998
Population (1921)	13,390
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	3,495
Number of families, or separate occupiers (1921): Most houses are occupied, but very few contain more than one family.	
Rateable Value	£79,918
Sum represented by a penny rate	£261 11s. 7d.

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Births—Legitimate	298	146	152
Illegitimate	20	14	6
Total	318	160	158
<i>Birth-rate 23.74 per 1000</i>			
Birth-rate, England and Wales, 22.4.			
	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths	156	82	74
Death-rate, 11.65 per 1,000.			
Death-rate, England and Wales, 12.1.			
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of Child Birth:—			
From Sepsis			1
From other causes			0

Deaths of Children under one year of age, per 1,000 births:—

	Number of Children.		Death-rate.	
Legitimate	...	17	...	53.4
Illegitimate	...	3	...	9.4
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	...	20	...	62.8

Death-rate, England and Wales, 87.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	3
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	6

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

The following Table shows the Causes of Deaths occurring in the Thingoe Rural District during the year 1921 (Civilians only):—

CAUSES OF DEATH.					MALE.	FEMALE.
All Causes	...	...	...	...	82	74
1	Enteric Fever	...	...	...	—	—
2	Small Pox	...	...	...	—	—
3	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
4	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	2	1
6	Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	—
7	Influenza	...	...	...	1	—
8	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	—
9	Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	—	—
10	Tuberculous of Respiratory System	...	...	...	10	6
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	2	1
12	Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	5	11
13	Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	—	—
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	3
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	4	5
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	7	14
17	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	2	5
18	Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	2
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	6	—
20	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	—	1
21	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	—	—
22	Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	4	2
23	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	2	—
24	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	1	—
25	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	2	—
26	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	—	1
27	Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	...	—	—
29	Congenital Debility and Malformation	...	...	...	—	—
	Premature Birth	...	...	...	6	3
29	Suicide	...	...	...	1	—
30	Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	...	2	1
31	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	18	16
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	2	2

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASES.	Total.	Under one year	I & under 2	2 & under 3	3 & under 4	4 & under 5	5 & under 10	10 & under 15	15 & under 20	20 & under 35	35 & under 45	45 & under 65	65 and over
Diphtheria	3				1			2					
Scarlet Fever	17				1		10	1	2	1	1		
Enteric Fever	1							2	1				
Puerperal Fever	2									2			
Pneumonia	1									1			
Erysipelas	5									1		3	1
Tuberculosis—													3
(a) Pulmonary { M. Notified Deaths	8								1	4	2		1
{ F. Notified Deaths	10								1	6	1	1	1
{ Tl. Notified Deaths	5							1		4	1		
{ M. Notified Deaths	15							1	1	4	3	1	1
{ F. Notified Deaths	16								1	8	1	3	1
(b) Non-Pulmonary { M. Notified Deaths	1	1								10			
{ F. Notified Deaths	2	1										1	
{ Tl. Notified Deaths	1	1											
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	3								1		1	1	
	1		At Home.	Treated. In Hospital.	Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.					

Tuberculosis cases are dealt with by the Tuberculosis Officer, and when deemed necessary are visited by one of the Health Visitors. After the death of a person suffering from Tuberculosis, the house in which the death occurred is disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

There were three deaths from Tuberculosis which were not notified, out of a total of 19 deaths due to this cause. In each case the attention of the Medical Practitioner who signed the death certificate was drawn to the omission.

4.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

There have been no specially noteworthy causes of sickness and invalidity to record. It may, however, be mentioned that a man who came on a visit to his family at Ingham, and who had only been there a few days, died of Acute Miliary Tuberculosis, and that within a week of his death his baby died of Tuberculous Meningitis.

In another instance a mother and her two children arrived at Bradfield St. Clare. Both children had previously contracted Diphtheria, which showed itself immediately after their arrival. One child died, and the other continued to show "positive signs" of Diphtheria for many weeks after she had recovered.

RAINFALL.—It may here be mentioned that the unprecedented drought caused considerable inconvenience, and in many cases real hardship. The health of the District might well have been considerably affected by the shortage of water, and is still liable to be affected unless the rainfall considerably increases this year.

The rainfall last year was 11 inches below the average. The amount of rain which fell in each month is stated below:—

	Rainfall.	Above Average.	Below Average.
January ...	1.61	... .09	... —
February ...	.18	... —	... 1.17
March ...	.82	... —	... .88
April ...	1.66	... —	... .08
May ...	1.05	... —	... .76
June ...	.28	... —	... 1.51
July ...	.19	... —	... 1.94
August ...	.95	... —	... 1.18
September ...	1.42	... —	... .62
October ...	1.12	... —	... 1.56
November ...	1.38	... —	... 1.75
December ...	1.32	... —	... .69
Total	11.98	... .09	... 11.97

5.—SUMMARY (for reference) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) General.—In some parishes by District Nurses.

(b) For Infectious Diseases, *e.g.*, Measles, etc.—No nurses are employed for nursing Infectious Diseases.

The following Table shows the number of Nurse Midwives employed in the District, the Parishes in which they reside, and the Parishes which they serve:—

Residence.	Parishes.
One Nurse at Lackford—	Lackford, Risby, Flempton, Hengrave, Fornham All Saints, Fornham St. Martin, Fornham St. Genevieve, Icklingham*, and Cavenham*.
One Nurse at Barrow—	Barrow and Higham*.
One Nurse at Horringer—	Horringer, Ickworth, Westley, Hawstead, Whepstead and Chevington.
One Nurse at Wickhambrook*—	Part of Hargrave and Wickhambrook*.
One Nurse at Pakenham—	Pakenham and Ixworth.
One Nurse at Beyton*—	Rougham, Thurston*, Beyton*, and Hessem*.
One Nurse at Culford—	Culford, Ingham and West Stow.

MIDWIVES.

One Lady Midwife at Lackford.

NOTE.—Parishes marked * do not belong to the Thingoe District.

It will be observed from the above Table that out of 48 Parishes, comprising the Thingoe District, only 21 Parishes are served by Seven Nurses. All the other Parishes in the District are without District Nurses and are sorely in need of proper Nursing arrangements.

Most of the District Nurses are affiliated with the Suffolk Nursing Association, while none of them are affiliated with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses. The County Council pays one-fifth of the nurses' salary in most cases, as they are engaged by the County Council for Maternity and Child Welfare Work. Three of the County Health Visitors supplement the work of the District Nurse, under the County Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.

The Notification of Births Act is administered by the West Suffolk County Council, and all notifications are sent to the County Medical Officer.

Midwives.—Nurse Midwives are employed as stated above. There are no *bona-fide* Midwives practising in the District, but the name of one lady, not a District Nurse, appears in the register, and she takes a few cases. Practically all cases not attended by Midwives are attended by medical men.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—The West Suffolk County Council provides a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at the School of Art, Bury St. Edmund's, on the first Thursday in each month. The County Council also provides Clinics (*a*) for treatment under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, (*b*) for school children, (*c*) for Tuberculosis, and (*d*) for Venereal Diseases, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, at the Shire Hall, Bury St. Edmund's.

An *Orthopaedic Clinic* has also been started at the West Suffolk General Hospital.

*Hospitals provided or Subsidised by the Local Authority
or by the County Council.*

(1).—The County Council provides a Sanatorium of 20 beds—14 for male and 6 for female patients—which is situated on the Rougham Hill.

(2) and (3).—No Maternity or Children's Hospital is provided by the Local Authority; children are, however, admitted into the West Suffolk General Hospital at Bury St. Edmund's.

(4).—There is no Fever Hospital or arrangements for the admission into any Fever Hospital of cases of infectious disease for patients residing in the Thingoe District.

(5).—There is a Small-pox Hospital at Fornham St. Martin, which is under the management of the West Suffolk County Council. The County Council is the Small-pox Authority for the whole county, under an order from the Ministry of Health.

There is no Institution, except the Workhouse, for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children in the District.

Ambulance Facilities.

(*a*) For infectious cases.—None.

(*b*) For non-infectious and accident cases.—A motor ambulance is provided by the Suffolk Branch of the British Red Cross Society, on payment of reasonable charges.

6.—LABORATORY WORK.

The County Council provides for the examination of sputa, nose and throat swabs, blood for Widal and Wassermann re-action, gonococci, spirochaetes, and cerebro-spinal fluid.

The County Analyst undertakes the examination of samples of water, etc.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is provided free by the Thingoe Rural District Council; and Tetanus and Anti-Meningococcic Serum is provided by the West Suffolk County Council.

The following adoptive Acts are in force in the District:—

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, adopted in 1891.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Order, 1885, adopted in 1905.

7.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

A Tabular Summary of the Sanitary Work accomplished during the year has been prepared by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Montgomery, and will be found appended hereto. I may here mention that Mr. Montgomery was only appointed on the 14th April, 1921, and the work done since his appointment shows he has carried out his duties with much energy and zeal.

I would especially draw attention to the fact that the Summary shows that during the year 1,273 visits were made, that 641 houses were inspected and re-visited, and that in 93 houses defects, more or less serious, were remedied, and the houses put into a habitable condition. It may also be mentioned that in addition to the above several houses were in course of repair at the close of the year.

Sewerage and Drainage.

Under this heading it will be observed that 17 new pail closets have been erected, and that 22 privies have been converted into pail closets, thus making the approximate number of each type of closets, as far as cottages are concerned, to be:—

Privies	...	...	...	1,159
Pail closets	...	...	...	1,224
Water closets	...	...	...	39

Schools.

Forty-eight visits were made to Elementary Schools. The sanitary arrangements of several of these Schools are far from satisfactory, and efforts are being made to abolish privies and substitute pail closets. Many Schools are, however, Voluntary Church Schools, and the Managers find difficulty financially in carrying out essential alterations.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 11 Slaughter-houses in the District, as compared with 9 at the end of the previous year. For the most part they are in a fairly good condition. They are, however, neither registered nor licensed, as the necessary powers have never been adopted. The Sanitary Inspector regularly visits the Slaughter-houses, and his visits are made as far as possible at the time slaughtering takes place. These are practically the only premises in the district in which food (sausage-making) is prepared, and every effort is made to ensure thorough cleanliness.

Arrangements for Disinfection.

There is no Infectious Hospital nor disinfecting station for the use of the District.

All infected clothing and bedding are disinfected at the house, wherein the disease occurred, by means of Formaldehyd gas fumigation and spraying. Disinfectants are also supplied, and printed precautions to be observed are given to the persons in charge of the house.

8.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Public Health Officers of the Council are:—

(1).—Charles Scott Kilner, Medical Officer of Health. Part time. Exchequer grants contributed towards salary.

Qualifications, Bachelor of Medicine and Master in Surgery, Edinburgh University; Diploma of Public Health, Cambridge University.

Holds appointment as Medical Officer of the Second and Seventh Districts, Bury St. Edmund's Union.

(2).—Kenneth Montgomery, Sanitary Inspector; whole time. Exchequer grants contributed towards salary.

Qualification, Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. Was for several months Coal Controller for the Thingoe Rural District Council.

9.—HOUSING.

During the year 1920 some 278 houses were inspected under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations. It was found, however, that very little progress was made in the work of alterations and repairs in a number of these cases due in a large measure to the economic conditions, and to the local scarcity of labour in the building trade. It was therefore considered advisable that the present Sanitary Inspector on his appointment should concentrate on getting as many repairs carried out as possible. With this object in view a further inspection in detail was made of 131 houses. It is pleasing to be able to record that very good progress has since been made, and that 93 houses have been put into a satisfactory condition, and further that several were in process of repair at the close of the year. For details of repairs, etc., see the Inspector's report.

The six houses which were being built by the Thingoe District Council at Pakenham, particulars of which were given in my last year's Annual Report, are now completed. Only two are however at present occupied, as the rent, six shillings a week, is considered too high for the average agricultural labourer.

The Ministry of Health has drawn up the following table, which I have endeavoured to fill up as far as possible:—

Number of new houses erected during the year 1921:—	
(a) Total	8
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	6
1. <i>Unfit Dwelling Houses.</i>	
Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	179
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	1
2. <i>Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.</i>	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	
	69

3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 6

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:—
(a) by owners 6
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners —

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close —

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 54

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:—
(a) by owners 24
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners —

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 1

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit —

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made —

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... —

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES SCOTT KILNER,

M.B., C.M., Edin.; D.P.H., Cambs.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Bury St. Edmund's,

April 10th, 1922.

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR 1921.

Number of Visits made	...	...	...	...	...	1273
„ Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases						84
„ Statutory Notices served	...	...	...			60
„ Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...			118

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE UNDER THE HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Number of houses inspected and re-visited	...	...				641
„ houses inspected in detail	...	...	...			131
Number of houses which could be closed with advantage when better accommodation is available	...					129
„ representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of closing orders						1
„ closing orders made	...	...	...	...		1
„ houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders	...					93
„ houses which, after the making of closing orders, were put into a fit state for human habitation						—
„ houses closed voluntarily by owners as unfit						1
„ houses demolished voluntarily by owners	...					—
„ houses provided with improved means of lighting and ventilation	...	...	...			7
„ houses where dampness has been remedied	...					5
„ houses erected	...	...	...	...		7
„ houses erected (converted Army huts)	...					1
„ houses re-built or added to	...	...	...			1
„ houses in course of erection	...	...	...			—
„ instances where one house has been converted into two dwellings	...	...	...			1
„ instances where overcrowded conditions have been remedied	...	...	...	...		4
„ dangerous buildings demolished	...	...				—

SUMMARY OF REPAIRS TO DWELLING HOUSES.

Number of houses where walls have been repaired	...	49
„ „ floors repaired	... ..	23
„ „ roofs repaired	... ..	22
„ „ roofs re-thatched	... ..	10
„ „ ceilings repaired	... ..	16
„ „ window frames repaired	... ..	16
„ „ staircases repaired or protected	... ..	5
„ „ troughing provided	... ..	7
„ „ troughing repaired	... ..	6
„ „ ashpits demolished	... ..	2
„ „ yard surfaces paved or repaired	...	16
„ „ outbuildings repaired	... ..	1
„ „ chimneys repaired	... ..	5
„ „ coppers have been provided or repaired	...	7
„ „ stoves repaired	... ..	10
„ „ doors and sills repaired	... ..	5

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Number of pail closets erected (additional accommodation)	...	17
„ privies repaired	... ..	12
„ privies converted into pail closets	... ..	22
„ privies converted into hand-flushed W.C.'s	...	—
„ pail closets repaired	... ..	3
„ waste pipes disconnected	... ..	2
„ new drains constructed	... ..	5
„ drains repaired or trapped	... ..	4
„ blocked drains cleared	... ..	7
„ cesspools emptied	... ..	2
„ open ditches cleansed	... ..	2
„ yard drains improved	... ..	4

WATER SUPPLY.

Number of samples taken for analysis	... ..	6
„ samples found to be unfit for drinking purposes	...	4
„ new wells sunk	... ..	—
„ wells closed	... ..	1
„ wells repaired	... ..	7
„ wells deepened	... ..	4
Number of wells cleansed	... ..	16
„ pumps repaired	... ..	1
„ ponds cleansed	... ..	2

SCHOOLS.

Number of visits to School Premises	...	...	...	48
„ schools where Managers have been approached to convert to pail system	...	...	...	3
„ schools where blocked drains were remedied	...	...	...	4
„ schools where sanitary fittings repaired	...	...	...	2
„ schools disinfected	...	...	...	1

MISCELLANEOUS.

Number of houses disinfected	...	...	...	36
„ houses cleansed	...	...	...	3
„ visits made to dairies, cowsheds and milkshops	...	...	...	56
„ registered cowkeepers in the District	...	...	...	28
„ registered dairymen and purveyors of milk in the District	...	...	...	1
„ cowsheds built	...	...	...	—
„ cowsheds altered or repaired	...	...	...	3
„ cowsheds lime-washed	...	...	...	6
„ cowkeepers registered during the year	...	...	...	2
„ visits to workshops	...	...	...	51
„ out-workers' homes visited	...	...	...	24
„ bakehouses cleansed and lime-washed	...	...	...	3
„ nuisances caused by the improper keeping of animals abated	...	...	...	2
„ offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	8
„ visits to slaughterhouses	...	...	...	123
„ slaughterhouses cleansed and lime-washed	...	...	...	2
„ lbs. of meat condemned	...	...	...	28

KENNETH MONTGOMERY,

C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector,

36, Mill Road, Bury St. Edmund's.

